

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 115, 116, 131 and 132 have been canceled by this amendment. Claims 60, 112, 117-120, 128, 129 and 133-136 have been amended by this amendment. No new matter has been added.

Claims 112, 121, 126 and 127 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on U.S. Patent no. 5,705,995 of Laflin et al. ("Laflin"). Claims 59, 60, 65-70, 75, 76 and 115-120 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Laflin in view of U.S. Patent no. 6,259,892 of Helferich ("Helferich"). The remaining claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Laflin in view of various other references.

The present application currently contains three independent claims, i.e., claims 59, 112 and 128.

Interview Summary

On March 24, 2004, a telephonic interview was conducted between Primary Examiner Erica Gary and Applicants' representative (the undersigned). Applicants' representative explained, and the Primary Examiner agreed, that Helferich does not disclose provisioning a user interface of the wireless communication device to perform a task according to an identified class of contact identifier, as the Office Action contended. The Primary Examiner agreed that the rejection of claims which recite this feature, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on Laflin / Helferich, is in error.

Discussion of Rejections

Claim 59 recites:

59. (Previously presented) A method of operating a wireless communication device, the method comprising:
receiving a message at the wireless communication device;
automatically detecting a contact identifier in the message;
automatically identifying a class of contact identifier to which the contact identifier belongs, from a plurality of predetermined classes of contact identifiers;
outputting descriptive information relating to the contact identifier on an output component of the wireless communication device; and
enabling a user of the wireless communication device to initiate a task relating to the contact identifier in response to said descriptive information being output, **including provisioning a user interface of the wireless communication device to perform the task according to the identified class of contact identifier.** (Emphasis added.)

Claim 59 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Laflin in view of Helferich. However, neither Laflin nor Helferich discloses or suggests enabling a user of the wireless communication device to initiate a task relating to the contact identifier in response to said descriptive information being output, including provisioning a user interface of the wireless communication device to perform the task according to the identified class of contact identifier. For example, with Applicants' invention, if the contact identifier is determined to be an email address, a softkey on the communication device may be provisioned to cause an email application to be initialized when pressed, whereas, if the contact identifier is determined to be a telephone number, that same softkey may instead be provisioned to cause an outgoing telephone call to be initiated. See, e.g., Specification, p. 15, lines 1-23; Figs. 2D-2F.

In the Office Action, the Office admitted that Laflin fails to disclose the above-mentioned claim feature, but contended that Helferich discloses it at col. 19, lines 19-45

(Office Action, p. 4). The Office is mistaken. The cited section of Helferich discloses that a user can "selectively store, save, retrieve, erase, forward, send or otherwise perform operations on messages stored at a remote location." Col. 19, lines 34-36. However, that is no hint no suggestion of provisioning a user interface of a wireless communication device to perform a task according to the identified class of contact identifier in a received message. Furthermore, no suggestion of such functionality is found anywhere else in Helferich or in any of the other cited references, either individually or in combination.

Therefore, claim 59 and all claims which depend on it are patentable over the cited art.

Independent claims 112 and 128 have been amended to include essentially the feature discussed above and, therefore, are also patentable over the cited art for similar reasons.

To the extent the Office might consider asserting another rejection under § 103 based on a different combination of references, Applicants remind the Examiner that there must be something in the prior art as a whole to suggest the desirability of making the alleged combination. In re Rouffet, 149 F.3d 1350, 1356 (Fed. Cir. 1998). Furthermore, such suggestion may not be found using hindsight gleaned from the applicant's specification. Id. at 1358. "[I]t is impermissible to use the claimed invention as an instruction manual or 'template' to piece together the teachings of the prior art so

that the claimed invention is rendered obvious." In re Fritch, 972 F.2d 1260, 1266 (1992).

Dependent Claims

In view of the above remarks, a specific discussion of the dependent claims is considered to be unnecessary. Therefore, Applicants' silence regarding any dependent claim is not to be interpreted as agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejection of such claim or as waiving any argument regarding that claim.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested.

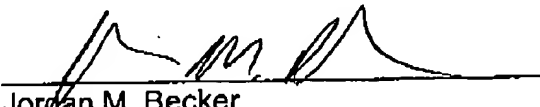
If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Jordan M. Becker at (408) 720-8300.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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Jordan M. Becker
Reg. No. 39,602

Customer No. 26529
12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025
(408) 720-8300